



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

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## The Director's cut



### THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

#### WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER EDITION OF ABSTRACT

The 2011 Census of Population and Housing will be held on 9 August 2011. With 9 months to go the ACT Office is focussed on delivering the best outcome for the ACT Community. For a small jurisdiction, such as the ACT, the Census is an invaluable source of information to support the development and monitoring of policy.

Critical to the successful running of the Census is the quality of the collectors we recruit. We require people that have high levels of both people and administrative skills and we need the support of the ACT Government and community in finding the right people. Departments could consider allowing their staff to undertake this work; in particular it would be an excellent development opportunity for next year's graduates to make an important contribution to the community.

We also need the support and assistance of community groups. Staff and volunteers have good relationships with some of the groups in our community that are harder to find on Census night such as homeless persons. Whether they assist a collector or become collectors themselves, the support of this sector of the community is essential for a successful census to be run.

In addition, ACT Policing have agreed to work with us to ensure the safety of our collectors as they visit every house in the Territory.

As in 2006 the ABS is offering the option of filling the Census in online through eCensus. The process is quick and efficient and I would encourage all ACT residents to take up this option.

A large amount of work has already been done, however there is much more to be done. Staff of the ACT Office will spend much of next year out talking to community groups and government officials so that we deliver the best possible Census for the ACT Community.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Stephen Collett - ACT office Regional Director**



## ACT Government news and events



### ACT GOVERNMENT NEWS AND EVENTS

Information in this section was contributed by the ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services.

#### ACT MALES CARE LESS ABOUT ROAD SAFETY

Males generally care less about road safety than females and almost one in five Canberrans admit to using a hand-held mobile phone while driving, according to the results of a road safety awareness survey which was released in August 2010 by Chief Minister and Minister for Transport, Jon Stanhope.

The ACT Government commissioned a random telephone survey to discover how aware Canberrans were about risks on the road. The survey polled 1,000 ACT residents of driving age during May and June 2010 on topics including the effects of speeding, drink driving and fatigue on a driver's capacity.

#### Findings from the report included:

- a high proportion of residents believe travelling on roads in the ACT is safe, with only 4% of respondents describing the roads as "unsafe" or "very unsafe";
- 85% of residents believe current speed limits in the ACT are "about right", whilst 11% believe they are "too low" and only 3% believe they are "too high";
- 85% of residents believe increasing the number of police officers on the road would improve driver behaviour, and there is a very high level of confidence (85%) in the effectiveness of "police presence" in terms of speed enforcement;
- there is moderate belief in the effectiveness of fixed speed cameras (48%), point-to-point cameras (54%) and speed camera vans (56%);
- 87% of residents feel compulsory breath testing helps to lower the road toll;
- 17% of residents admitted to answering their hand-held mobile phones when driving; and
- roadside signage (electronic road signs and general road signs) was believed to be

the most effective with regard to road safety advertising.

The research provided a valuable snapshot of the level of road safety awareness among Canberra drivers. The ACT Government plans to use the survey results to improve ACT road safety campaigns and to target areas where driver awareness is lacking.

The results will also feed into the development of the ACT Government's new road safety strategy for 2011-2020. A discussion paper on this issue was released in August for public comment. It is expected that the next strategy will have a stronger vision component based on the "Vision Zero" philosophy, a more proactive approach based on "safe system" principles, and stronger measures to address culture change.

The survey results and discussion paper are available at [www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au).

## 2011 Census



**2011 CENSUS**

**CENSUS 2011**



## PREVIEW OUR PLANS

**Are you a user of Census data?**

Over the past few weeks, our Census Products & Services section has been holding information sessions about 2011 Census in Canberra, Townsville, Melbourne, Perth, Darwin, Adelaide, Brisbane, Newcastle, Sydney and Hobart where we have had the opportunity to meet with Census data users!

For those who were able to attend a session, thank you for coming along. If you weren't able to attend in person, we would like to invite you to visit our [2011 Census Preview Our Plans blog](#) and have a look at the presentation...

## We welcome your feedback

Please visit the [2011 Census Preview Our Plans](#) blog, where you can provide feedback on our proposals, ask questions or get further information and see where we are up to.

The presentation (with additional notes), is available on the blog, as are FAQs, information about the new geography and links to further sources of information.

### ***Would you be interested in attending an information sessions specific to the new geography?***

We have had a lot of interest, particularly around the new geography being implemented for 2011 Census. If you would be interested in attending an information session specific to the new geography, please leave a comment on our 2011 Census Preview Our Plans blog indicating which city you located in. Alternatively, send an email to [census.software@abs.gov.au](mailto:census.software@abs.gov.au).

### ***Subscribe to our mailing list for updates***

To subscribe to our mailing list and be notified of Census-related updates, please send an email to [census.users@abs.gov.au](mailto:census.users@abs.gov.au) with subject as 'add to Census email'.

Jenny Telford

Director

Census Products & Services

## Census beyond the count



CENSUS BEYOND THE COUNT

2011 CENSUS



## A SHOWCASE EVENT

The 2011 Census is less than a year away! In the lead up to this, the Australian Bureau of Statistics will host an exciting event at Hilton on the Park - Melbourne, from Wednesday 2 March to Friday 4 March 2011.

The **Census - beyond the count** conference will highlight the effective and innovative use of Census data by government, community and private sector organisations. Over the course of two days, the conference will explore the difference that the Census makes to community planning, infrastructure development, business opportunities and government policy.

People from all levels of government, demographers and social advocates, small business, community leaders and policy 'influencers' across Australia are encouraged to attend.

### Program details

The **Census - beyond the count** program promises to deliver an interesting and informative conference. **Census - beyond the count** will feature speakers and presenters from a broad range of state, regional and local government bodies, charitable organisations and private institutions. Keynote speakers include Bernard Salt, a leading commentator and advisor on consumer, cultural and demographic trends.

The conference begins with a Welcome Reception on Wednesday night and is then followed by two days of informative and interesting presentations from

a wide range of Census data users. The program will be a mix of plenary, concurrent, workshop and panel sessions. The conference dinner will also be held on Thursday night.

Keep an eye on the conference website for updates on speakers as they are confirmed.

### Workshops at Census - beyond the count

At **Census - beyond the count** there will also be a number of smaller workshops. The workshops will be conducted to provide delegates with an opportunity to understand Census products and concepts in more detail in an interactive environment. Workshop topics will include: 'Understanding the new geography', 'Tips and tricks for TableBuilder' and a presentation and discussion about population projections.

Secondary providers of Census data will also host a number of workshop showcasing innovative uses of Census data.

### Connect with Census

The Connect with Census area is an opportunity for delegates to get up close and personal with Census and ABS experts. The Connect with Census space will enable delegates to explore many different facets of Census, meet experts and find out the answers to their burning questions.

Delegates will be able to liaise with key ABS staff members on a one to one basis. A range of options will be available, these include:

- Census One on One - Delegates can meet and talk, one on one, with representatives from specific parts of the Census program.
- Ask an Expert - A number of small spaces where delegates can meet a subject matter expert.
- Direct Connections - An opportunity to meet with Census service and support representatives such as Census Information Consultants, National Referral and Information Service staff and Census Management Unit representatives.
- Twitter Central - Our social networking guru will be on hand to help you get up and running on Twitter, and to demonstrate the ways that ABS is using blogs and other social media to connect with Australia.

## Registrations are now open

Join us at **Census - beyond the count** and discover how the Census is making a difference to people and places across Australia. Register before 31 December to lock in our 2010 rate and save \$150. Go to [www.abs.gov.au/beyondthecount](http://www.abs.gov.au/beyondthecount) to register online today.

## Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities

A small number of sponsorship and exhibition opportunities are available at **Census - beyond the count**. If you would like to showcase your organisation at this event, please visit the website for information on the available opportunities and details on how to apply.

## Find out more

To find out more or to register for the conference visit: [www.abs.gov.au/beyondthecount](http://www.abs.gov.au/beyondthecount). We also encourage you to follow us on Twitter [@beyondthecount](http://@beyondthecount).

## Measure's of Australia's Progress



### MEASURE'S OF AUSTRALIA'S PROGRESS

#### HOW DO WE COMPARE

Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP), 2010 tries to answer the question: 'Is life in Australia getting better?'. MAP presents a set of indicators that measure key aspects of progress in Australia. While it does not claim to measure every possible aspect of progress, it does provide a national summary of many of the most important areas of progress. MAP also looks at whether all Australians are sharing in progress. MAP is designed to inform and stimulate public debate and encourage all Australians to assess a broader view of progress.

#### The latest results show:

## ***Education and training***

Since 1999, the ACT has had the highest proportion of people (aged 25-64 years) with a higher education qualification. Increasing from one-third (33%) in 1999 to almost one-half (47%) in 2009.

Since 1999, the ACT has also had the highest Year 7/8 to Year 12 apparent retention rate compared with all other states and territories, remaining relatively stable between 93% in 1999 and 87% in 2009.

## ***Work***

Over the previous decade the ACT has had a lower unemployment rate than all other states and territories (except the Northern Territory in 1999). The unemployment rate in the ACT decreased from 5.5% in 1999 to 3.3% in 2009, although this was the highest it had been since 3.7% in 2004.

## ***Culture and leisure***

In 2005-06, the ACT had the highest participation rate of people aged 18 years and over in sport and physical recreation (80%) and the highest attendance rate of people aged 15 years and over at cultural venues and events (90%) compared with other states and territories.

However, the ACT had more comparable rates of attendance at sporting events. In 2005-06, 48% of people living in the ACT (aged 15 years and over) had attended at least one sporting event in the year prior to the survey date, compared with one-half of people living in the Northern Territory and 49% living in South Australia.

## ***Crime***

In 2008-09, people living in the ACT, along with New South Wales and South Australia, were the least likely to be victims of physical assault (2.8% each) compared with other states and territories. The ACT also had the lowest offender rate of all states and territories (1,096 per 100,000 people aged 10 years and over). However, comparisons between states and territories may be affected by differences in legislation, and in administrative or organisational arrangements.

## ***Democracy, governance and citizenship***

In 2007-08, people living in the ACT (aged 18 years and over) were more likely to be concerned about climate change (81%) than any other state or territory. This was seven percentage points above the national average (74%).

## ***Communication***

Since 2005-06, the proportion of people living in the ACT (aged 15 years and over) using the Internet has been higher than any other state or territory. Rising from 81% in 2005-06 to 86% in 2008-09. This is related to the ACT's predominantly urban population, making the provision of services cheaper. Furthermore, Internet use is significantly higher for young people, highly qualified people and employed people - in 2009 the ACT had the highest proportion of people (25-64 years) with a higher education qualification (47%) and the lowest unemployment rate (3.3%) compared with all states and territories.

## ***Transport***

In 2009, the ACT had the lowest rate of road fatalities per capita (3.4 per 100,000 people) than any other state or territory. However, the ACT, with the exception of Tasmania, was the only state or territory to record an increase in road fatalities per capita since 2004 (2.7 deaths per 100,000 people).

### **National income**

Between 1998-99 and 2008-09, real gross state income per capita grew by 2.3% in the ACT. This was faster than NSW (1.9%) and Victoria (2.2%) but slower than the national average (2.8%).

### **Household economic wellbeing**

In 2007-08, the ACT had the highest average real weekly disposable household income than any other state or territory (\$1,026), increasing from \$611 in 1997-98. This most likely reflects the younger age profile of the ACT and the greater number of employed people per household.

### **Housing**

Between 2002-03 and 2008-09, the price of established houses in Canberra rose at an average of 6.9% per year. This was lower than all other capital cities except Sydney, where house prices fluctuated, but rose by an average of 1.6% per year.

### **Land**

Over half (51%) of the ACT is native forest, making up 0.1% of Australia's total native forest area.

For more details see [Measures of Australia's Progress, 2010](#) (cat. no. 1370.0).

## **Vital Statistics**



### **VITAL STATISTICS**

#### **BIRTHS AND FERTILITY IN THE ACT**

There were 4,900 births registered to women living in the ACT in 2009, approximately 1% more than in 2008 (4,800).

In 2009, the median age of ACT women who gave birth was 31.4 years, while the median age of fathers (where age is known) was 33.6 years. These were both higher than the median ages recorded for Australia, and were the second oldest of all the states and territories (Victoria recorded the oldest median ages).

As well as being older, ACT parents are more likely to be married at the time of birth than those living in other states and territories. In 2009, the ACT recorded the second highest

proportion of babies born into a nuptial relationship (71%), following Victoria (72%).

The ACT recorded the lowest total fertility rate (TFR) of all the state and territories in 2009, at 1.74 babies per woman. This was a small decrease from the TFR of 1.75 babies per woman recorded for births registered during 2008. Over the past decade, the TFR for women has been consistently below the TFR for Australia. The ACT also recorded the lowest teenage fertility rate for women aged 15-19 years, at 9.7 babies per 1,000 women.

More details on births in Australia, the states and territories, and regional data are available in [Births, Australia, 2009](#) (cat. no. 3301.0).

## **MORTALITY IN THE ACT**

There were 1,600 deaths registered in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in 2009, approximately 3% less than were registered in 2008.

In 2009, the ACT had a standardised death rate (SDR) of 5.4 deaths per 1,000 standard population. This was the lowest recorded of all the states and territories. The overall SDR for Australia was 5.7 deaths per 1,000 standard population.

The median age at death for the ACT has been increasing over the past ten years. In 1999, the median age at death was 75.3 years, 4.7 years younger than the median age at death in 2009 (80.0 years). In 2009, Australia recorded a median age at death of 80.8 years.

The infant mortality rate (IMR) in the ACT is the second lowest in Australia with 3.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2009. Western Australia had the lowest IMR with 3.2 deaths per 1,000 live births. Australia recorded an IMR of 4.3 deaths per 1,000 live births.

More details on deaths in the ACT, other states and territories and Australia can be found in [Deaths, Australia, 2009](#) (cat. no.3302.0).

## **Schools Australia**



### **SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA**

#### **ALTERNATIVE MEASURES OF ENGAGEMENT IN SECONDARY EDUCATION**

[Schools Australia](#) (cat. no. 4221.0) now presents a suite of alternative measures of secondary school engagement. These measures provide a more accurate picture of engagement within and across jurisdictions, particularly for their ability to limit effects of cross border enrolments on measures of engagement.

The new measures, outlined in [Appendix 3: Alternative Measures of Engagement in Secondary Education](#), offer a new perspective on the level of engagement in secondary education in Australia.

## They comprise:

- School Participation Rate (the proportion of the population at school by age)
- Apparent Continuation Rate (the proportion of the population who continue at school from one year to the next by age)
- Apparent Progression Rate (the proportion of full time students progressing through school at the usual rate of one grade per year)

The new suite of measures complements the Apparent Retention Rate (ARR), which provides a ratio of enrolments between a base and given year, often the first and final year of secondary school. Until direct measurement of school transitions is available from unit record data, the ABS will continue to report ARR by Indigenous status in addition to the new measures which are calculated for the total student population only.

## New ABS website features



### NEW ABS WEBSITE FEATURES

## GENDER TOPICS PAGE

The first release of the ABS [Gender Topics Page](#) occurred on 8 October 2010. The Gender Topics Page provides a central access point to link to existing sources and products, with gender-related and sex-disaggregated content, on the ABS website, and responds to call for better navigation to these sources.

This work is being undertaken by ABS under the Australian Gender Indicators Project, with funding support from Office for Women under the Department of Families, Housing, Community Service and Indigenous affairs (FaHCSIA) via the Commonwealth, State, Territory and New Zealand Ministers' Conference on the Status of Women (MINCO).

The second focus of this project is to develop a new product to present gender indicators. Gender indicators, through providing sex-disaggregated data, will better support analysis and monitor the differences in outcomes between women and men nationally.

The third development is to establish a Gender Statistics Advisory Group to provide the ABS with advice on priority issues in gender statistics.

For more information, and to stay up to date with these developments, please refer to the Noticeboard on the [Gender Topics Page](#).

## DISABILITY AND CARERS TOPICS PAGE

The new [Disability and Carers Topics Page](#) was launched on the 28 September. The focus of the new design is to make publications and information papers easier to locate.

The subject matter is now grouped into 7 pages:

- Disability-related surveys: Includes surveys and related information covering disability, ageing and carers.
- Disabling conditions: Analytical papers that explore the relationship between particular chronic conditions and disability.
- Carers: Analytical articles examining the personal, social and economic impact of the caring role on people at different stages in their life-cycle.
- Population groups: Focuses on disability information for a number of population groups including Children, Families, Indigenous Australians and Aged persons.
- Social indicators: Analysis includes community participation, socioeconomic disadvantage, and trends in disability income support.
- Research papers and articles: Disability variables, small area estimation and concepts in measuring disability.
- Other links: Topics @ a Glance pages, Australian and International links.

Under "What's new", links to new publications related to Disability and Carers will be displayed. Currently, there are links to ABS Sources of Disability Information and the Update on the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 2009 to be released next year.

Watch the Disability and Carers topics pages for new publication releases in January and February, 2011!

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## **Have your say**



**HAVE YOUR SAY**

### **CALL FOR FEEDBACK**

We would like to hear from you if you have any feedback on the content of the newsletter or suggestions for how it may be improved.

Feedback can be directed to the ABS ACT Regional office.

**Telephone:** 6525 8900

**Fax:** 6252 8009

**Email:** [act.office@abs.gov.au](mailto:act.office@abs.gov.au)

### **ABS National Information Referral Service (NIRS)**

NIRS is the first point of contact for all your statistical and publication enquiries.

**Telephone:** 1300 135 070

**Fax:** 1300 135 211

**Email:** [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)

## **About this Release**

ABSTRACT - Statistical News: Australian Capital Territory provides new and relevant information about survey developments, information and training sessions, user consultations, major changes to the statistical program, state/territory data releases and significant ABS data releases.

# Explanatory Notes

## Abbreviations

### ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
CMD	Chief Minister's Department
IMR	infant mortality rate
MAP	Measures of Australia's Progress
SDR	standardised death rate
TFR	total fertility rate

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